

### **IN THE ABSTRACT**

At page 17, please amend the Abstract at lines 2-10 to read as follows:

-- ~~The invention discloses a~~ A device and technique for a sutureless wound closure, which limits the risks of rupture and scarring , is described. The device ~~comprises~~ includes a two-part strap having short hooks or barbs on the ventral surface. The barbs are curved and flexible such that, when urged in one direction, the barbs do not engage while when urged in the opposite direction, the barbs are pushed downward and engage the tissue of the wound. By deploying one strap on each side of the wound ; and then fastening the two straps in the middle of the wound and tightening the ends, the wound is closed. The tension required to close the wound is distributed along the length of the straps, thus resulting in a cleaner, safer closure. --